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IMPLICIT PARTICIPANTS IN MENTAL PROCESS: A FUNCTIONAL GRAMMAR ANALYSIS

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Abstract

Mental processes are process of sensing and are realized by verbs of cognition, affection, perception, and volition. Those types of verbs are transitive verbs, which mean they need object. This means that there is someone who senses (Senser) and there is something that is sensed (Phenomenon). There are three types of phenomenon, Phenomenon of Thing, Phenomenon of Act and Phenomenon of Fact. These two participants—Senser and Phenomenon—always exist in the processes, whether explicitly or implicitly. However, some clauses that are mental processes do not include one of the participants, either Senser or Phenomenon. There is even some data that do not include both participants. Thus, the aim of this paper is to probe implicit participants that might exist in mental processes, using content analysis as a method. The result, Implicit Participants, namely Implicit Senser and Implicit Phenomenon, can be retrieved from sentence that comes before the mental processes. The mental processes were then paraphrased and deconstructed to form a complete mental processes that include both participants, Senser and Phenomenon.

Keywords: Mental process, Senser, Phenomenon, implicit

INTRODUCTION

In Systemic Functional Linguistics or Functional Grammar, there are three metafunctions discussed, one of them is Clause as Representations or System of Transitivity. The units analyzed in System of Transitivity are processes that are realized by verbs, the transitive verbs. As stated by Richards et al. (1985: 298), transitive verb is a verb which *takes an object*. Moreover, Klammer (1995: 451) states that transitive verb is a verb that *has a direct object as its complement*.

Besides verbs, there are two other elements in mental processes, *Senser* and *Phenomenon*. These two participants always exist in the processes. Eggins (2000: 242) stated that “even if one participant is apparently absent, it will need to be retrieved from the context for the clause to make sense, (for example) *She believed* always implies *She believed something or someone*”. Furthermore, there is no distinction between intransitive and transitive mental processes because all mental processes *potentially involve both Senser and Phenomenon* (Halliday, 1985: 112). This means that all mental process should always have two participants in it, whether if it is a single clause or clause complex, explicitly or implicitly.

The purpose of this paper is to analyze data which includes mental processes with implicit participant. The data is taken from a novel entitled *Blood Canticle* (2003) by Anne Rice.

METHOD

This research is a qualitative research with content analysis as a research method. Content analysis goal is purely descriptive, allowing the identification of patterns and frequencies of occurrences (Carlson, 2008). In this paper, content analysis is conducted in three steps: discussing the concept of power relations by Foucault, discussing strategies in power relations, and making connection between the concept of power relations as well as the strategies of power relations with the power relations experienced by the characters in the novel.

Content analysis is done in three steps. First step, a researcher starts analysis by looking for certain symbols. Second step, the researcher makes classification based on

certain criteria. Third step, the researcher makes some prediction using a certain analysis technique.

Participants in Mental Processes

Mental processes are processes of sensing. This means that mental processes involve the clauses of feeling, thinking, and perceiving (Halliday, 1985). Furthermore, mental processes are concerned with our experience of the world of our own consciousness (Halliday and Matthiesen, 2004: 197). In other words, mental processes involve “not material action but phenomena best described as states of mind or psychological events..., tend to be realized through the use of verbs like think, like, know, ... puzzle” (Bloor and Bloor, 1995: 116).

In mental processes, the processes are realized by three types of verbs (Eggs, 2000: 241). The first verb, **cognition**, includes processes such as thinking, knowing and understanding, for example *I don't know him*. The second verb, **affection**, includes processes such as liking, loving and fearing, for example *He hates clowns*. The third verb, **perception**, includes processes such as seeing and hearing, for example *Raymond heard the woman screaming*. Graham Lock added another type of verbs in mental processes, which is **volition**, including processes of wanting, needing, and wishing. For example, *The baby wanted to drink milk* (Lock, 1996: 105).

Besides processes or verbs, there are other participants can be found in mental processes, namely Senser and Phenomenon. These two elements are called participants. In mental process, there are always two participants involved. Senser is “the one that ‘senses’ –feels, thinks, wants or perceives, for example *Mary* in *Mary liked the gift*” (Halliday and Matthiesen, 2004: 201). Senser must be a conscious being that can be replaced by she, he, they but not it.

On the other hand, Phenomenon is something that is “felt, thought, wanted, or perceived ... it maybe not only a thing, but also an act or fact” (Halliday and Matthiesen, 2004: 203). Phenomenon of thing is “realized by a noun group, or an event, realized by a nonfinite *Ving* or *V* clause” (Lock, 1996: 106).

<i>I</i>	<i>recognized</i>	<i>him</i>
Senser	Process: mental	Phenomenon: Thing

Phenomenon of act is “ a configuration of a process, participants involved in that process and possibly attendant circumstances” (Halliday and Matthiesen, 2004: 204). Furthermore, phenomenon of acts occur with mental processes of perception: seeing, hearing, noticing (Eggins, 2000: 243).

<i>I</i>	<i>saw</i>	<i>the operation taking place</i>
Senser	Process: mental	Phenomenon: Act

The last, phenomenon of Fact is “an embedded clause, usually finite and usually introduced by a ‘that’, functionin as if it was a simple noun” (Eggins, 2000: 244).

<i>She</i>	<i>didn’t realize</i>	<i>the fact that it was a bomb</i>
Senser	Process: mental	Phenomenon: Fact

Furthermore, Eggins stated that “Fact Phenomenon can usually be reversed, using an active synonymous mental process verb while having the Fact-embedding as Subject”.

<i>The fact that it was a bomb</i>	<i>escaped</i>	<i>her</i>
Phenomenon: Fact	Process: mental	Senser

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Implicit Senser and Implicit Phenomenon

The first classification of Implicit Senser (IS) followed by Process and then Implicit Phenomenon. Process is realized by verbal group.

(Implicit Senser)	Process	(Implicit Phenomenon)
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From research data, there is one data of mental process that contains an implicit Senser, with the order of participant constituent mentioned above. Below is the analysis result.

(1) *She knew she was next. Didn’t care anymore.* (Blood Canticle:103)

In this data, mental process is signified by the presence of Verbal Group *didn't care*, with the word *care* as the main verb and as cognition verb. There is no Sensor and phenomenon found. However, it can be inferred from previous sentence who the Sensor is, which is *she*. On the other hand, the implicit Sensor must sense something, that is the Phenomenon. According to the order of participant constituent in mental process, Sensor occurs before Process and Phenomenon. Therefore, if we paraphrase data (1), we have:

	<i>(She)</i>	<i>Didn't care</i>	<i>(that she was next)</i>
(2)	(Implicit Sensor)	Pr	(Phenomenon: Fact)

Implicit Phenomenon

The second classification presents mental process which contains Implicit Phenomenon (IPh). Thus the pattern is Sensor that is followed by Process and Implicit Phenomenon. Here, Sensor is realized by noun group, Process by verbal group, and Implicit Phenomenon by entities such as noun group.

Sensor	Process	(Implicit Phenomenon)
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There are some data of mental processes found that contain an Implicit Phenomenon, with the order of participant constituent mentioned above. The following ones are some of the examples with functional grammar analysis.

- (3) *Did I really not believe in those things which I saw? Or had I simply found that cosmos to be unendurable? I didn't know* (Blood Canticle, 46)

In this data, mental process is represented by the occurrence of Verbal Group *don't know*, with the word *know* as the head word that is also a cognition verb. A participant can be found here is represented by the word *I*, which realizes the position of a Sensor.

I *didn't know*

Se	Pr
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The word *know* itself is a transitive verb. As mentioned before, transitive verb is a verb that takes an object. In other word, in mental process, the object is the Phenomenon.

Yet, in data (3), we cannot find any Phenomenon to be sensed by the Sensor *I*. Therefore, we assume that there is something to be sensed. It can be a Noun Group, Verbal Group or Preposition Group, for example. In data (3), we can see that there are two clause complexes before clause ***I didn't know***. Thus, it can be inferred that the Phenomenon that follows the word *know* in the mental process refers to one of the clause complexes. Therefore, if we paraphrase data (3) to include the Phenomenon of participant, we have two options, as in data (4) and (5).

(4) ***I didn't know (if I really did not believe in those things which I saw)***

(5) ***I didn't know (if I had simply found that cosmos to be unendurable)***

From data (4), we have the clause complex *I really not believe in those things which I saw* as Implicit Phenomenon that is sensed by the Sensor *I*. This clause complex can be projected by the word *if* to become an if clause that follows the Process that is realized by the word *know*.

I didn't know (if I really did not believe in those things which I saw)

Se	Pr	(IPh)
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On the other hand, we also have data (5) with different representation of Implicit Phenomenon. Here, we have clause *I had simply found that cosmos to be unendurable* as Implicit Phenomenon that is being sensed by the Sensor *I*. Similar with data (4), clause complex in data (5) also can be followed by the word *if* to form an if clause, that realized the thought of Sensor *I*.

I didn't know (if I had simply found that cosmos to be unendurable)

Se	Pr	(IPh)
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(6) *She turned, and reached down to give me a warm hug and a kiss. I was happily surprised* (Blood Canticle, 244)

In data (6), mental process can be found in the clause *I was happily surprised*. Mental process then is signified by the occurrence of the verb group *surprised*. We can find a participant in the clause, which is the noun group *I* that functions as Sensor. Yet, there is nothing to be sensed, or in this case Phenomenon.

I was happily surprised

Se	Pr
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Though there is no explicit Phenomenon to be sensed, but we can find it from the previous sentence of this mental process. From data (6), we have *She turned, and reached down to give me a warm hug and a kiss* as additional information before the mental process of *I was happily surprised*. Therefore, it can be concluded, that the Phenomenon perceived is something from the previous sentence. Thus, if we paraphrase data (6) to include the Phenomenon, we have data (7).

(7) *I was happily surprised (by the warm hug and the kiss she gave).*

In data (7), we have a *by-* clause *by the warm hug and the kiss she gave* that was taken from previous sentence before mental clause of *I was happily surprised*. The *by-*word is used because the clause cannot be attached as Phenomenon without something to link the clause with the clause *I was happily surprised*. Therefore, we have *by the warm hug and kiss she gave as* the Implicit Phenomenon. We can retrieve this information because the verb group *surprised* needs a supporting data to answer the question “what surprises?” and before the mental process *I was happily surprised*, there is an additional information, so that we can assume that the previous clause is the one to be sensed.

I was happily surprised (by the warm hug and the kiss she gave)

Se	Pr	(Implicit Phenomenon)

CONCLUSION

This paper analyzes the implicit participants in mental processes, namely Implicit Sensor and Implicit Phenomenon. This is because in mental processes, there are two participants involved, namely Sensor and Phenomenon. However, sometimes there are sentences of mental processes that do not include the participants. In this paper, the implicit participants, namely Sensor and Phenomenon, can be retrieved from previous sentences or clauses.

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